

EDUCATIONAL FINE ARTS PROGRAMS IN FEDERAL
BUILDINGS

JULY 2 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2300]

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare to whom was referred the bill (S. 2300) to authorize the Commissioner of Education to encourage the further development and growth of the educational fine arts programs in the State and land-grant and other accredited nonprofit colleges and universities and of nonprofit organizations and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL

(1) Page 1, line 4, strike out "drama and music" and insert in lieu thereof "fine arts".

(2) Page 1, line 6, insert the words "and nonprofit organizations" immediately after the word "universities".

(3) Page 2, line 1, insert the words "where the Federal Government has suitable space under it jurisdiction and control" after the words "United States".

(4) Page 2, line 2, strike out the following: ", drama and music productions" and insert in lieu thereof" (including performance of services incidental thereto), fine arts productions".

(5) Page 2, line 3, insert "and nonprofit organizations" after the word "universities".

(6) Page 2, lines 3-7, strike out the words:

The Commissioner of Education shall submit to each department and agency of the Federal Government, and to the government of the District of Columbia, a list of the institutions having such programs and desiring to present such productions

(7) Page 2, line 8, insert the words "college, university, or nonprofit" before the word "organization".

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(8) Page 2, line 9, insert the words "of this Act" after the word "purpose".

(9) Page 2, lines 9-11, strike out the words "any department or agency of the Federal Government or the government of the District of Columbia" and insert in lieu thereof "the General Services Administration or the government of the District of Columbia, as the case may be,".

(10) Page 2, lines 12 and 13, strike out the words "accredited nonprofit educational institutions" and insert in lieu thereof "any such college, university, or organization,".

(11) Page 2, line 13, strike out the words "drama and music" and insert in lieu thereof "fine arts".

(12) Page 2, lines 13 and 14, insert the words "(including performance of services incidental thereto)" after the word "productions".

(13) Page 2, line 14, strike out the words "any auditorium" and insert in lieu thereof "suitable space".

(14) Page 2, line 15, insert the words "with the concurrence of the department or agency of the Federal Government concerned" after the word "control".

(15) Page 2, lines 15 and 16, strike out the words "auditoriums for the presentation of such productions" and insert in lieu thereof "such space for such purpose".

(16) Page 2, lines 18 and 19, strike out the words "except those incidental to the furnishing of heat, light, and necessary custodial services" and insert in lieu thereof

or assume any responsibility, financial or otherwise, for the business management, sale of tickets, promotion, financing, housing, transportation, or other services or arrangements for such productions, except those incidental to the furnishing of heat, light, and custodial services necessary for such productions in such space. Such college, university, or nonprofit organization shall assume all such expenses and responsibility and perform all services or arrangements for services incidental thereto, except those incidental to the furnishing of heat, light, and custodial services necessary for such productions in such space.

(17) Page 2, lines 20-25, and page 3, lines 1-5, strike out section 3.

(18) Page 3, line 6, strike out "4" and insert in lieu thereof "3".

(19) Page 3, lines 10 and 11, strike out the words "covered into the Treasury to the credit of a special revolving fund, which" and insert in lieu thereof "deposited in an account in the Treasury of the United States and are hereby appropriated and".

(20) Page 3, line 13, after the word "Act.", insert the following:

Such account shall be audited at least once each fiscal year by the General Accounting Office in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(21) Page 3, after line 13, insert the following:

SEC. 4. For purposes of this Act, the terms

(1) "fine arts" shall include living drama and music, opera, literature, architecture, sculpture, painting, ballet, and dance.

(2) "nonprofit organization" means any public or private foundation, charitable trust, or other organization (whether or not incorporated), no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of its stockholders or members.

The committee amends the title of the bill to read:

To authorize the Commissioner of Education to encourage the further development and growth of the educational fine arts programs in the State and land-grant and other accredited nonprofit colleges and universities and of nonprofit organizations, and for other purposes.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The major purpose of the bill is to encourage the further development and growth of the educational fine arts in the State and land-grant and other accredited nonprofit colleges and universities and of nonprofit organizations by authorizing the Commissioner of Education to make provision for bringing to Washington, D. C., and to other communities in the United States for public presentation and in performance of services incidental thereto, fine arts productions of such colleges, universities, and organizations.

The bill as originally introduced provided such authorization with respect to educational drama and music programs. After studying extensively the hearings held by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor on legislation similar to S. 2300, as originally introduced, and after consideration of reports from the Federal Security Agency, the Bureau of the Budget, the Treasury Department, and the General Services Administration, as well as the views presented to the committee by interested college and nonprofit organizations, the committee revised the bill to make it applicable to fine arts, as defined in section 4 (1) of the bill recommended by the committee, to include living drama and music, opera, literature, architecture, sculpture, painting, ballet, and dance.

On the request of any college, university, or nonprofit organization, approved by the Commissioner of Education for purposes of the act, the General Services Administration or the government of the District of Columbia, as the case may be, would be authorized to make available, without charge to any such institution or organization for the presentation of fine arts productions (and the performance of incidental services) under the act suitable space under its jurisdiction and control, with the concurrence of the department or agency of the Federal Government concerned. In providing such space neither the Federal Government nor the government of the District of Columbia would be authorized to incur any expenses or assume any responsibility whatsoever for the business management, promotion, or other services or arrangements for such productions, except those expenses incidental to the furnishing of heat, light, and custodial services.

The committee has amended the bill in order to insure that the Federal Government would not be called upon to underwrite the productions covered by the act financially or to bear any deficit or keep any profit therefrom. The committee does not recommend such financial assistance or participation by the Federal Government. In accordance with the committee amendments, the committee feels that there should be no direct expense to the Federal Government in carrying out the provisions of the proposed act except such costs as might be necessary for the provision of light, heat, extra guard and custodial services for the productions in space under the jurisdiction and control of the Federal Government or the government of the District of Columbia. In this connection the committee has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no way of estimating the costs of the programs in advance but it is considered they would not be large. The Bureau of the Budget has no objection to the absorption of minor costs of the proposed program under the bill by the Federal Government.

Under the committee amendments to the bill any college, university, or nonprofit organization approved by the Commissioner of Education for the purposes of the act must assume all expenses and responsibility and perform all services or arrangements for services incidental thereto, except those incidental to the furnishing of heat, light, and custodial services necessary for their fine arts productions. In this connection the committee struck out section 3 of the act under which the American National Theatre and Academy, which has been chartered by an act of Congress (act of July 5, 1935, 49 Stat. 457) and other nonprofit organizations in the field of education, drama, and music to handle the business management, sale of tickets, local financing, housing, transportation, and other arrangements for such productions and to promote the development of the program authorized by the proposed act. This action of the committee would provide more latitude in the operations of the colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations covered by the act to make such arrangements as they deem best.

Under the bill, as recommended by the committee, the Commissioner would be authorized to receive contributions of moneys, materials, and other property from any source to aid in the developing of the program authorized by the proposed act and money contributions so received would be deposited in an account in the Treasury of the United States and would be appropriated and made available to the Commissioner of Education for developing and carrying out the program authorized by the proposed act. The account would be audited annually by the General Accounting Office in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

So far as the committee has been able to determine there are no direct precedents for this kind of legislation in the committee bill. The committee, however, views the principles and concepts underlying it as sound and acceptable; namely, the promotion of the arts as a significant element in our cultural life. There have been legislative proposals for Federal subsidy and for promotion of the arts before Congress in the past. These have languished, in part at least, because of the many problems incidental to Federal financial assistance without any controls. The committee proposal is not subject to this difficulty and would guard against the possibility of Federal censorship or control. In expanding the scope the committee bill would encourage the growth of the living fine arts by enabling colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations devoted to the fine arts to bring to more communities fine art productions and to reach broader audiences, and to quicken the interest of the American people in our living fine arts. There is no question that the committee bill would be a stimulant to all these arts.

In conclusion, the committee quotes from volume I of the Report of the President's Commission on Higher Education in December 1947:

* * * Thus American colleges and universities face the need both for improving the performance of their traditional tasks and for assuming the new tasks created for them by the new internal conditions and external relations under which the American people are striving to live and to grow as a free people. * * *

8. To understand and enjoy literature, art, music, and other cultural activities as expressions of personal and social experience, and to participate to some extent in some form of creative activity.

It can scarcely be necessary to urge the importance of literature in the program of general education. Man's consuming interest is in man, and in this interest literature can serve. By means of great novels, poems, plays, and essays one can participate vicariously in many events that one's own life does not encompass, and so can gain as in no other way imaginative insight into the emotions, drives, and aspirations of one's fellow men.

Literature sets forth both the heights and the depths that man can reach. It is an avenue of communication with the great minds and the great souls of yesterday and of today. It can do as much as any other single form of experience to broaden and deepen the perceptions and sympathies of the individual.

This consequence does not, however, follow from the study of details of literary history, literary biography, literary techniques, or any other of the accompaniments to literature that make up specialization in the subject. The contribution of literature to insight and emotional maturity will come from one's own reading of the world's literary treasures, and from reflection upon them.

The world's literary treasures are not those of the west alone. They include the great intellectual statements of men everywhere and in all ages. There is probably no better way of promoting the intellectual and spiritual unity of mankind than through free trade in enduring literary expressions.

And in the graphic and plastic arts, too, man has recorded much of his thought and feeling about life through color, form, and sound. A signal defect in much of American education, and in American culture, is its failure to recognize that music, painting, sculpture, the dance, the drama, and others of the arts are authentic statements of experience.

One of the tasks of American democracy is to heighten and diffuse esthetic sensibility and good taste, to make our people sensitive to beauty in all its varied forms: in the commodities and services of everyday life, in private and public buildings, in community and regional planning.

The study of the arts in general education should not be directed toward the development of creative artists of exceptional gifts, though it may in some instances lead to this. It should aim at appreciation of the arts as forms of human expression, at awakening or intensifying the student's sensitivity to beauty and his desire to create beauty in his everyday surroundings, at developing bases for discrimination and interpretation, at inducing sympathy with arts and artists and active concern for their welfare. Support of the arts can no longer be left to the patronage of wealth; active encouragement of artistic expression in its various forms must become the responsibility of all citizens.

Before completing his general education, the student should acquire a measure of skill in at least one of the arts or crafts, in some form of musical expression or in dramatics. Participation in creative activity, even at a low level of proficiency, is one of the best means to understanding and appreciation of artistic expression.



